

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 AID-05

CU-02 SY-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /064 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9161

INFO PANCANAL

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USUN NEW YORK 0566

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PN

SUBJECT: NATIONAL GUARD SUPPRESSES STUDENT MARCH

1. ACCORDING TO NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT ALAN RIDING, WHO WAS ON THE SPOT, THE NATIONAL GUARD AT ABOUT 12:20 P.M. BROKE UP A MARCH OF ROUGHLY 500-700 UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA STUDENTS.

2. THE GUARD, MANY OF WHOM WERE IN BATTLE DRESS, ATTACKED THE STUDENTS AS THEY TURNED FROM MANUEL ESPINOSA STREET (WHICH GOES BY THE UNIVERSITY) ONTO PANAMA CITY MAIN DRAG, VIA ESPANA. RIDING SAW NO ONE INJURED, BUT REPORTS THAT FOUR PADDY WAGONS, CARRYING ROUGHLY 50 STUDENTS, DROVE AWAY FROM THE SCENE.

3. AT LEAST 10 TRUCKLOADS OF TROOPS ARE PARKED IN THE AREA OF THE UNIVERSITY AS OF 1:30 P.M, AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO WAS IN THE UNIVERSITY AT THE TIME OF THE MARCH REPORTS THAT HE SMELLED TEAR GAS ON CAMPUS. CLOUDS OF TEAR GAS CAN BE SEEN INSIDE THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS FROM THE NEARBY A.I.D. OFFICE BUILDING. WE

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HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE TEAR GAS

BOMBS WERE ACTUALLY LAUNCHED INSIDE THE UNIVERSITY.
(RIDING SAW NO TEAR GAS BEING USED.)

4. RIDING REPORTS THAT THE STUDENTS WERE MOSTLY
REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST LEAGUE (LSR), REVOLUTIONARY
STUDENT FRONT (FER) AND VANGUARDIA MEMBERS. GOP-
BACKED FEP OPPOSED THE MARCH, AS APPARENTLY DID THE
ANTI-GOP GUAYKUCHO STUDENTS. STUDENTS CARRIED
SIGNS AGAINST THE COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE AND AGAINST
GOVERNMENT REPRESSION. NO ANTI-U.S. SIGNS NOTED.
JORDEN

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